

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-01 OMB-01

CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /070 W

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R 151505Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5251

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BMMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTO, IN, BM, CH

SUBJECT: UPSURGE IN FIGHTING IN NGGALAND

REF: NEW DELHI A-329

1. NEW INFORMATION BASED ON PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BY
EMBOFFS WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND INDIAN MILITARY
CONTACTS, AND PRESS REPORTS BASED ON INFORMAL GOVERNMENT
BRIEFINGS TO INDIAN NEWSMEN, CONFIRM THAT BOTH THE
INDIAN ARMY AND THE NAGA INSURGENTS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY
STEPPED UP OPERATIONS IN NAGALAND. A HIGHLY PLACED
INDIAN ARMY OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TOLD AN
EMBASSY ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE ON NOVEMBER 15 THAT
6,000 TROOPS FROM THE ENLARGED EIGHTH INDIAN ARMY
DIVISION (WHICH HAS FIVE FULL BRIGADES STATIONED IN
MAGALAND) HAVE SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER BEEN CONDUCTING
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"COMBINING" OPERATIONS AGAINST THE MAIN NAGA INSURGENT

STRONGHOLDS IN NAGALAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTH-CENTRAL PORTION OF THE STATE. IN RECENT WEEKS THE INDIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED GOI-BASED STORIES ON THE DESTRUCTION OF AT LEAST SIX NAGA INSURGENT BASES AND THE CAPTURE OF REBEL PERSONNEL, WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS.

2. THE MAOIST-ORIENTED BRANCH OF THE NAGA UNDERGROUND, THE NAGA FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (NFG), HAS ALSO STEPPED UP MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THE MOD SOURCE MENTIONED IN PARA 1 STATED THAT INDIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT 93 NAGA REBELS RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE NAGA-BJRMESSE BORDER FROM SIX MONTHS OF TRAINING IN CHINA'S YUNNAM PROVINCE AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO RE-ENTER NAGALAND. SINCE MID-OCTOBER, INDIAN PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE MOVEMENT AND ULTIMATE INTERCEPTION INSIDE NAGALAND OF THIRTY-NINE CHINA BOUND NAGAS. A NOVEMBER 10 SHILLONG BASED INDIAN EXPRESS STROY STATED THAT 133 MORE NAGA RECRUITS HAD EITHER ENTERED BURMA OR ELUDED CAPTURE IN NAGALAND. PRESS REPORTS ALSO ALLEGE THAT DOCUMENTS CAPTURED WITH THE NAGAS CITE NFG INTENTIONS TO RESIST NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOI; TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS "GOVERNMENT"; AND TO SEEK CHINESE ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION IN YUNNAN.

3. COMMENT: THE INDIAN ARMY'S STEPPED UP MILITARY PRESSURE AND THE SIMULTANEOUS INCREASE IN NFG ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THE RESUMPTION OF THE CHINA TRAFFIC IN TRAINEES, HAVE EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATED SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED END TO THE TWO-DECADE OLD NAGA INSURGENCY. A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN THE GOAL OF THE TEN-MONTH OLD UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) MINISTRY, MANY OF WHOSE LEADERS WERE FORMERLY WITH THE UNDERGROUND.

4. COMING ON THE HEELS OF THE STRONG, ADVERSE CHINESE REACTION TO INDIA'S ANNEXATION OF SIKKIM, THE CONTINUED CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN THE NAGA INSURGENCY IN INDIA'S SENSITIVE NORTHEAST REGION WILL FURTHER SOUR PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS.
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5. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
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Draft Date: 15 NOV 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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